



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

NEWS RELEASE

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June 28, 2005

#05-13

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Tennessee Joins Letter Urging Major Credit Card Provider to Issue Security Breach Alert to Visa, MasterCard Cardholders

As many as 22 million Visa credit cardholders and 14 million MasterCard credit cardholders may have been had their credit cards compromised during a major security breach CardSystems Solutions, Inc. reported in late May. As a result, Tennessee and most other state attorneys general today issued a joint letter asking CardSystems Solutions, Inc., the company where the breach allegedly occurred, to notify consumers their credit and private information may be at risk.

“It is the responsibility of CardSystems Solutions, Inc. to make sure the public is aware of this security breach,” Attorney General Paul G. Summers said, “and to take the appropriate action to make sure it doesn’t happen again.”

Forty-four states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico signed on to the letter from the National Association of Attorneys General. The publication Information Week reported the security breach last week, noting CardSystems may have violated provisions of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard. The security standard is a set of security requirements for merchants and payment processors that includes implementing strong access-control measures, regularly monitoring and testing networks, and maintaining an information security policy.

“This is unacceptable,” the attorneys general said in the multistate warning letter. “We call upon your company to do the responsible thing and notify all affected consumers immediately.”

The attorneys general are also asking the company to provide the total number of consumers impacted by the security breach, explain how it happened and what steps the company is taking to avoid a future problem.

Attorney General Summers suggests Tennesseans who think their credit cards may have been compromised call their credit card providers to determine if they may be at risk. Consumers can also examine their account statements for suspicious activity. They can also request an annual free copy of their credit report online at www.annualcreditreport.com or by

calling (877) 322-8228.

Tips on protecting your personal information and what to do if you become a victim of identity theft are available from the Federal Trade Commission. FTC's ID Theft Hotline: 1-877-ID-THEFT (877-438-4338), <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>